

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY
NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING AND PUBLIC COMMENT

The Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ), Virginia Department of Health (VDH) and the Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) seek written and oral comments from interested persons on the development of Total Maximum Daily Loads (TMDL) for fecal coliform bacteria in thirteen shellfish propagation waters located in Northampton County, Virginia.

The impaired segments are located in the following VDH Growing Areas:

Growing Area 85, Containing Nassawadox Creek, Warehouse Creek, Westerhouse Creek, Church Creek and Holly Grove Cove;

Growing Area 86, containing Hungars Creek, Jacobus Creek, Barlow and Mattawoman Creeks;

Growing Area 87, containing the Gulf

Growing Area 88, containing Cherrystone Inlet and Kings Creek; and

Growing Area 90, containing Old Plantation Creek.

All waters are tributaries to the Chesapeake Bay.

The affected water body segments are identified in Virginia's 1998 303(d) TMDL Priority List and Report as impaired due to violations of the State's water quality standard for fecal coliform bacteria in shellfish waters. Section 303(d) of the Clean Water Act and §62.1-44.19:7.C of the Code of Virginia, require DEQ to develop TMDLs for pollutants responsible for each impaired water contained in Virginia's 303(d) TMDL Priority List and Report.

This is the first public meeting, to provide information and solicit comments from citizens and local government on preparation of the draft reports of the fecal coliform TMDL's studies and is to be held on February 6, 2007 from 6:00 to 9:00 p.m. at the Old Courthouse, Circuit Court Room, 16404 Courthouse Road, Eastville, Virginia. A preliminary draft of these reports can be obtained on the DEQ website at <http://www.deq.virginia.gov/programs/tmdl/> or the FTP site <http://www.deq.state.va.us/tmdl/tempdocs/>.

The public comment period will begin on Feb. 7, 2007, and end on March 8, 2007. Questions or information requests should be addressed to Chester Bigelow and should include the name, address, and telephone number of the person submitting the comments. Requests should be sent to Chester Bigelow, Department of Environmental Quality, 629 East Main Street, Richmond, Virginia, 23240, telephone (804) 698-4554, Fax (804) 698-4116, or e-mail ccbigeow@deq.virginia.gov.